Tourism potential in NE region

213. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge tourism potential in the North-Eastern Region particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the place-wise details thereof;

(c) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) North Eastern Region in endowed with immense tourist potential comprising scenic beauty, exotic flora and fauna, unique tribal and heritage culture. Places of tourist interest are as under:—

Name of the State	Important Tourist Attractions
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar, Bomdila, Geara Lake, Hot Springs, Ganga Lake, Pasighat
Assam	Guwahati, Kamakhya, Kaziranga, Dibrugarh, Manas
Manipur	Imphal, Loktak Lake, Sendra
Mizoram	Aizawl, Champhai, Reiek, Berawtlang
Meghalaya	Shilong, Umiam Lake, Cherrapunjee, Tura
Nagaland	Kohima, Dimapur, Khonoma, Piphema
Sikkim	Gangtok, Nathula, Namchi
Tripura	Agartala, Kamlasagar, Neer Mahal, Mahamuni

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has undertaken the development of tourism infrastructure in North-Eastern Region under the schemes; Integrated Development of Tourism Circuits, Product

Infrastructure, Destination Development and Large Revenue Generating Projects. Proposals for development of Tourism Circuits and Destinations Sanctioned to North-Eastern States during 2004-05 are as under:—

Assam	Rs. 871.75 lakhs
Mizoram	Rs. 1076.35 lakhs
Meghalaya	Rs. 963.30 lakhs
Nagaland	Rs. 2932.19 lakhs
Sikkim	Rs. 630.81 lakhs

Funds for promotion of tourism

†214. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government provide economic assistance to States to promote tourism;

(b) if so, the amount allocated to States by Government to promote tourism during last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that allocation of funds to tourism sector has increased during the current year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total amount allocated to States during the last three years is as per Statement (*See* below)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Plan allocation for the tourism sector has increased to Rs. 786 crore for the year 2005-06 as against Rs. 500 crore last year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.